#### EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 87/2023

From: Permanent Secretary for Education To: Supervisors/Heads of government and

aided primary schools (including special

schools) and primary schools under the

**Direct Subsidy Scheme** 

Date : 22 May 2023

: EDB(NSS)1\_14/2041/22

# **Expanding Summer Bridging Programme for Non-Chinese Speaking Students**

#### **Summary**

Ref.

This circular memorandum aims to inform public sector primary schools and primary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) of the details about the Summer Bridging Programme for Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Students<sup>1</sup> (the Programme), including the expansion to include NCS students progressing to Primary 5 and Primary 6 from 2023 onwards, and invites schools to apply for subvention to operate the Programme during the summer holidays of 2023.

#### **Background**

2. The Programme aims to facilitate NCS Primary 1 entrants' adaptation to the use of Chinese in classroom learning and help NCS students progressing to Primary 2, Primary 3 and Primary 4 consolidate what they have learnt in the school year and prepare them for Chinese learning in the following school year. To strengthen the support for NCS students, the Programme has undergone further expansion since 2013, which engages parents of participating NCS students for more effective learning of Chinese through parental support and home-school co-operation.

#### **Details**

- 3. To strengthen the support for NCS students in learning Chinese, the Programme will be further expanded to include NCS students progressing to Primary 5 and Primary 6 from 2023 onwards, with a view to preparing them for Chinese learning in the following school year. Other than the aforementioned expansion, the implementation details of the Programme remain unchanged. In other words, NCS students admitted to Primary 1 in September each year in public sector primary schools and DSS primary schools, as well as NCS students progressing to Primary 2 to Primary 6 in these schools are eligible for the Programme. Parents and guardians of participating NCS students are also invited to join the Programme.
- 4. Participating schools should offer the Programme free of charge and the duration of each class should be no less than 60 hours. The average class size is about 15 students, and there should be a minimum of 10 NCS students (except for special schools) from the host school/and other school(s). For special schools, the minimum number is 5 NCS students. The Programme MUST be conducted during the summer holidays. The Education Bureau (EDB) will render

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For the planning of educational support measures, students whose spoken language at home is not Chinese are broadly categorised as NCS students.

assistance, where necessary, to participating schools should they wish to enrol their NCS students and parents in the Programme operated by other schools. If the situation of individual schools warrants special consideration, discretion will be exercised by EDB in respect of the minimum number of NCS students required for the Programme.

- 5. NCS children allocated to Primary 1 in public sector primary schools in the 2023/24 school year under the Primary One Admission System<sup>2</sup> may opt to send their applications to EDB direct. We will enrol them in the Programme operated by other participating schools if it is not offered by their allocated schools.
- 6. Participating schools may, having regard to students' learning needs, exercise professional judgement in designing the programme content and arranging various learning activities (e.g. Chinese Language lessons, cultural activities, reading clubs, recitations, dramas, language games, campus tours and visits to community facilities). Schools may also arrange for parents to accompany their children in class and/or other learning activities in order to promote home-school co-operation. Besides, the programme content and modes of operation may be adapted to cater for students with special educational needs.
- 7. The subvention rate for 2023 is \$24,860 per class. This will be disbursed to schools according to the number of classes approved by EDB, which takes into account the number and grouping of student participants. Any unspent subvention as at 31 August 2023 will be clawed back by EDB based on the audited accounts submitted by schools. The unspent balance, if any, cannot be carried forward for use in the next school year. Transfer of the subvention and/or its unspent balance to any other accounts is not allowed. Schools should ensure that the subvention is used in compliance with the principles set out in the relevant Administrative Guide, otherwise, they will be required to return all the disbursed amount to EDB.
- 8. To collect schools' feedback on the Programme and evaluate its overall effectiveness, EDB will conduct supervisory visits to schools and collect stakeholders' feedback in the form of a questionnaire upon completion of the Programme. Schools are required to complete the questionnaire and submit it together with the programme content to EDB on or before 29 September 2023. Schools will be informed separately in writing of the relevant arrangements. Furthermore, according to the "School Development and Accountability framework", participating schools should conduct evaluation of the Programme, and set out the implementation details (including class arrangement and the number of participating NCS students and their parents), the findings of the evaluation, the effectiveness of the Programme in improving NCS students' learning of Chinese, etc. in their school annual reports, which should be uploaded to their school webpages on or before 30 November 2023.
- 9. The Administrative Guide containing details of the Programme and relevant information is available on EDB webpage: <a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/ncs-students/support-to-school/summer-bridging-programme/summer-bridging-programme.html">https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/ncs-students/support-to-school/summer-bridging-programme/summer-bridging-programme.html</a>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A leaflet is attached to the Primary One Admission Registration Form to encourage NCS students allocated to Primary 1 in public sector schools to enrol in the Programme.

#### **Application Procedures**

10. Schools interested in applying for the subvention to operate the Programme should complete Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 and return them to EDB before the deadlines tabulated below:

Submission deadlines		Documents
On or before 21 June 2023 (Note)	Appendix 1	Application for Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students 2023
On or before 30 June 2023	Appendix 2	Confirmation of the number of participants in Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students 2023
	Enclosure to Appendix 2	List of students attending Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students 2023

Note: If no notification regarding the application is received from EDB <u>by 28 June 2023</u>, please contact the Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section (Section 1) for follow-up.

11. EDB will arrange disbursement of the subvention to participating schools in July 2023 upon receipt of the schools' confirmation of the number and list of NCS students attending the Programme.

#### **Enquiries**

12. For enquiries, please contact Ms Kitty LAM on 3509 8565 or Ms Emma LEUNG on 3509 8571.

(Ms Cynthia CHAN) for Permanent Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of sections – for information

To: Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section (Section 1) Education Commission and Planning Division, Education Bureau (Fax number: 2179 5492; Address: 7/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong)

## **Application for Summer Bridging Programme for Non-Chinese Speaking Students 2023**

(Please complete and return by fax or by post on or before 21 June 2023)

Our school would like to apply for participation in the Summer Bridging Programme for Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Students (the Programme) during the summer holidays of 2023. We hereby undertake to observe the terms set out in the Administrative Guide in delivering the Programme. We will conduct evaluation of the Programme upon its completion and relay the findings in our school annual report, which will be uploaded to our school webpage on or before 30 November 2023.

We understand that we should contact the Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section (Section 1) for follow-up if no notification regarding the application is received from the Education Bureau (EDB) by 28 June 2023. Our proposal for operation of the Programme is provided below:

(Please put a "✓" in the appropriate boxes)

progressing to Primary 2 to Primary  on our own.	gramme for NCS Primary 1 entrants, and NCS students
1 1	ramme by: (You may choose more than one option) ollaborating with non-governmental organisation(s)).
(Date) (Month) The Programme will be conducted	t school year (2022/23 school year) of our school is 2023.  ed for the teaching of Chinese Language only from to (Date) (Month) 2023.
NCS Students subvention.	ne funded by EDB's Summer Bridging Programme for e funded by other government funding. ogrammes.
Signature of Supervisor	:
Name of Supervisor	:
Name of School	:
Treasury School Code (4 digits)	School
Name of Teacher-in-charge	: Chop
Email of Teacher-in-charge	:
Telephone Number of Teacher-in-charge	:
Date	:

Total no. of NCS

students of the

grade level

To: Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section (Section 1) Education Commission and Planning Division, Education Bureau (Fax number: 2179 5492; Address: 7/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong)

#### Confirmation of the number of participants in Summer Bridging Programme for Non-Chinese Speaking Students 2023

(Please complete and return together with the Enclosure by fax or by post on or before 30 June 2023)

I hereby confirm the number of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students attending the Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students (the Programme) in the table below and have submitted via WebSAMS accurate information of all NCS students progressing to Primary 2 to Primary 6 from our school. Please find the list of students in the <u>Enclosure</u>.

No. of NCS students

from our school

Grade level

No. of NCS students

from other school(s)

(if applicable)

	` '	(b)	(a)+(b)=(c)
Primary 1 entrants			
Progressing to Primary 2			
Progressing to Primary 3			
Progressing to Primary 4			
Progressing to Primary 5			
Progressing to Primary 6			
Total			
1 1	arents to accompany	y their children in class	s and/or other learning from other school(s).
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ox):  Our school will arrange for paractivities. There will be	parents to accompany parents from our scler parents of NCS students of Section 1.	y their children in class	s and/or other learning from other school(s). amme.
Our school will arrange for paractivities. There will be	parents to accompany parents from our scler parents of NCS students of Section 1.	y their children in class	s and/or other learning from other school(s). amme.
activities. There will be	parents to accompany parents from our scler parents of NCS students of Section 1.	y their children in class	s and/or other learning from other school(s). amme.

### List of students from our school attending Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students 2023

(Please make copies of this page if the space provided in the table below is insufficient)

No.	Name of NCS student	STRN	Grade level (progressing to P1 to P6)
1	JOHN SINGH (example)	M2379156	Progressing to P1
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			